



Development of the Camp Nature Program

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What makes a camp a camp? Not the tents, the buildings, not the campers, although of course there must be campers. It is the warm sun, white clouds, the rain, the grass, trees, shrubs, flowers, the pond and brook. It is the fish, frogs, turtles, birds, rabbits, squirrels, foxes, butterflies, crickets and many others. It is the stars at night.

How shall we introduce our campers to these wonders? Many of the campers come fresh from a world of brick, stone, TV sets and movies. They are not tuned to the out-of-doors. What shall we do?

As a first step, we can help give them back their senses, the five senses they were born with — help them know the fun of seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting, and feeling the natural world around them. The campers and all the staff can participate in this first step — becoming aware of the natural world.

Step two calls for exploration and the discovery of how living things live. It means trips to different types of environment, learning about habitats. It provides for adventure.

From awareness and knowledge comes step three, an appreciation of the out-doors, understanding of the camper's relation to it, his dependence on soil, water, plants and wildlife; his power to destroy a habitat, to help restore it. This leads to a feeling of responsibility and stewardship towards his camp site and his country.

Getting acquainted with our natural environment will not only delight the camper now but can supply him with a lifetime of fascination and enjoyment, and make him a good citizen determined to conserve natural resources and help keep his country a wonderful place in which to live.

Plans Laid for Annual Meetings

The planning committee of the AAAS Science Teaching Societies met at Indianapolis on February 1, to plan for the next annual meetings to be held in that city. Richard Weaver and Max Forsyth represented the ANSS. The Antlers Hotel was chosen as the headquarters.

Registration and first board meeting will be on Thursday, December 26. Details of the program which will run through December 29 will be announced later, and will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the ANSS.

The annual meeting of the Western Section of ANSS will be held at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California from August 27 to 31 in conjunction with meetings of the AAAS and the AIBS. Dr. Arthur Nelson, president of the western section and Dr. Howard Cogswell, vice president announce an excellent program.

This meeting will offer a fine opportunity to meet old friends and make many new ones. These meetings are a great stimulus through the ideas presented through papers, as well as through informal discussions. The field trip and showing of Kodachromes promise a real treat to all who attend.

Memorial to Passenger Pigeon

SILENT WINGS published in a limited edition by the Wisconsin Society of Ornithology, is a Memorial to the Passenger Pigeon. This fine publication is edited by one of our ANSS members, Mr. Walter E. Scott. It contains four interesting articles related to the passenger pigeon and conservation in general. Copies may be obtained for 25 cents (which barely covers mailing costs) by writing to Walter E. Scott, 1721 Hickory Drive, Madison, Wisconsin.

No Apologies Needed

No apologies need be made for nature study. Only the individual who teaches the subject about which he knows little and who gets from books what little he does know may be the sentimentalist who on occasion gives nature study a local black eye. Where nature study is well handled with understanding of the community and child relationship to natural phenomena we find developed a fine understanding of the world around us which are the resources and heritage we must live with understandingly.

Mr. Herman Schneider of City College of New York, who has written numerous books interpreting the out-of-doors, presents some viewpoints on how to achieve the full potentialities of nature study. He states that we need to do the following things:

1. Focus less on individual items and more on relationships.
2. Do more looking for and less looking at.
3. Recognize the change from farm to city.
4. Emphasize man as part of nature.
5. Collect with a purpose, rather than merely collect.
6. Capitalize on opportunities for indoor nature study.
7. Be less sentimental and more realistic.
8. Capitalize on opportunities for integration.
9. Capitalize on current interests of children.
10. Move more readily into "science" implications and outgrowths of nature study.

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New ANSS Sections Projected

One item on the agenda of the business meetings of the ANSS concerned the possibility of creating other sections of the society similar to that of the Western Section. The last issue of the NEWS-LETTER commented on such a possibility, and we feel now that several such sections might materialize. The north central states area—or perhaps the area between the Appalachians and the Mississippi might logically constitute a section. The freedom for cooperation on such a section will be limited by distance of travel, and other factors.

Some financial arrangement could be made with the parent society for necessary operating expenses such as postage, mimeo materials and other expenses involved in holding section meetings. Membership campaigns are handled better on a section basis. There are other advantages with few, if any, disadvantages.

Briefs

Mrs. James S. Blair, for a number of years has directed her scout troop in planting onion seeds for the purpose of distributing the seedlings throughout her community. During the summer, Mrs. Blair serves as day camp naturalist for the Cook County Forest Preserve. She makes every effort to bring nature study to her scouts.

Edwin A. Mason of the Massachusetts Audubon Society reports that they have developed a nature study and conservation program which has been approved by the Massachusetts State Department of Education. This program which was introduced in 1939 is probably unique among the states. It is designed to enrich the regular school curriculum and to establish proper conservation attitudes by

increasing interest in the world of nature.

The staff of the Massachusetts Audubon Society is qualified to present instruction in conservation and natural science in an effective and accurate manner.

Plans are being laid to celebrate the hundredth anniversary of the birth of Theodore Roosevelt who was one of the greatest champions of our resources. The Theodore Roosevelt Centennial commission has been charged by the government of the United States to direct suitable observance of this centennial anniversary.

The Fifth Biennial Wilderness Conference sponsored by the Sierra Club held a highly successful meeting in San Francisco in March on the theme Wild Lands in our Civilization. Numerous outstanding conservation organizations were represented.

Mrs. Anne M. Rockefeller announces that the packet for conservation which the Garden Club of America distributes has been thoroughly revised and brought up to date. Their packet has been and certainly will continue to be a great force for promoting better conservation education in America.

Desomount Dustings will soon complete its eighth volume as the publication of the Desomount Club. Roland Case Ross of Los Angeles State College organized the club eight years ago and is past president of Western Division of the ANSS, is at present Education Director of the Desomount Club.

Los Angeles State College had a week's fieldtrip under the leadership of Mr. Ross to Cholla Bay in Sonora, Mexico during the spring vacation. This is an outgrowth of trips taken earlier by the members of the Desomount Club and now carries college credit. Your editor, Stanley B. Mulaik, has been invited to attend to interpret terrestrial invertebrates of the desert areas.

Outdoor Museums Preserved

The Nature Conservancy with offices at 4200 - 22nd Street N.W., Washington 18, D. C. has been active in preserving fragments of wild America from the onrush of civilization. They are saving biological communities of all kinds as "outdoor museums" where plants and animals can be studied and enjoyed by us and by our great-grand children. The Nature Conservancy is the only national organization primarily dedicated to a program of land acquisition for these purposes.

Any member of ANSS who knows of an area where some area has unusual ecological interest because of plants or animals which are threatened with extinction should get in touch with the conservancy. This organization would investigate the feasibility of acquiring the area through purchase of gift.

Naturecides

A problem which conservationists, naturalists and others of similar interest have been aware and comes from the growing use of insecticides, fungicides, herbicides and other killing agents. Fish, game and song birds, predators among insects, mites, spiders, and other forms entering into the complex interrelationships of nature are indiscriminately destroyed in the name of controlling pests. It's like shooting every man in town in order to get the lone bandit who robbed the fattest piggy bank in the community.

Mr. Lee Metcalf (Mont.) introduced H. R. 11839 — Wildlife and the Chemical Killers to congress recently. It directs the Secretary of the Interior to undertake continuing studies of the effects of the extensive use of herbicides, fungicides and insecticides upon fish and wildlife. Stated purpose is the prevention of "losses of those invaluable natural resources following spraying and to provide basic data on the various chemical controls so that forests, croplands and marshes can be sprayed with minimum losses of fish and wildlife." It authorizes \$280,000 annually for such research.

The Soil Bank Legislation was in many aspects a victory for many people. The law spelled out comprehensive objectives in "soil, water, forest and wildlife conservation" which showed a recognition by Congress of the inseparable relationship of timber, wildlife resources to land and water management. We hope that wildlife is not pushed into the background in importance when action is taken.

Summer Opportunities

To list all possibilities for summer opportunities for ANSS members is out of the question. A few which have recently been called to our attention might be mentioned.

The National Audubon Society conducts four excellent camps, and any one of these would give a fine experience through which to enrich the following winter's work.

The American Forest Association has available Trail Riders of the Wilderness Expeditions covering eleven of the most scenic areas of America by horseback. These range from one to three weeks duration, and any one of them would be worth far more than the modest charge.

Numerous biological stations along our ocean shores, inland lakes and in the mountains present varied opportunities for profitable study and recreation.

Dr. Dwight Sollberger mentions a workshop for science and mathematics teachers to be held at Indiana Teachers College, Indiana, Pennsylvania. Dr. Malvina Trussell reports that her school received \$7,000 for a science and math program to run for nine weeks.

Paul W. Nesbit reports that during the first two weeks in August there will be a Camp counseling and leadership course at Camp Audubon on Brainard Lake, northwest of Ward, Colorado.

Science Laboratories are conducted by the University of Colorado and University of Wyoming high in the mountains.

Alvord Wildlife Sanctuary on Bear Island in Lake Winnepesaukee offers work in nature with credit through Plymouth Teachers College, Plymouth, New Hampshire.

Highlands Biological Station located at Highlands, North Carolina is backed by a number of eastern colleges and universities and offers fine opportunity to study in an area considered having the greatest biological assets in Eastern North America.

Massachusetts Audubon Society operates Wildwood Nature Camp for boys and girls nine to fourteen years of age.

A Frontier in Education

We find in a brochure from the New Jersey State School of Conservation entitled *A FRONTIER IN EDUCATION* the following:

"Many educators are saying: The next frontier in Education, is renewed use of the out of doors.

"In New Jersey, as in some other states, using the out-of-doors has ceased to be a dream. In 1956, one community school system will provide a week of school camping for every sixth grader. Hundreds of students in several other school systems will receive a shorter experience in camp on school time.

"Nationally, approximately 500 communities are now carrying on school camping programs that each year involve larger numbers of students. Educators are beginning to recognize camping as a part of the basic educational program; in fact, several school systems now employ trained personnel to guide their development."

Those of us in the ANSS can well commend this movement. Yet we issue a warning that such trend to the out-of-doors does not get bogged down in administrative schemes and activities which will neglect the true reason for going out of doors — to learn more about nature. We issue this warning knowing how scarce are the leaders in the field of

nature education, and we are aware of the tendency, at least in some areas, to jump on the band wagon to establish out-door experiences for every child but with urban trained leaders and urban activities transposed to the outdoors. For those who take a step toward school camping we can truthfully hope it is not a blind step, but is a step with enthusiastic outdoor leaders and not just enthusiastic leaders transposed to the out of doors. There is a difference.

Cap'n Bill Vinal "Retired?"

From his new home at RFD 2, "Vinehall," Grove Street, Norwell, Mass., Dr. "Cap'n Bill" Vinal writes of a busy life. He is intensely preoccupied in spreading the nature study idea to many people through numerous talks to all types of groups. He reports on the creation of the eleventh Massachusetts Audubon Sanctuary of which his son-in-law, Henry Draper is Director and his daughter, Muriel, is Receptionist.

Cap'n Bill is currently working to see a realization for the proposed Pilgrim-Puritan Wildlife Reservation in Plymouth County, Mass. This involves much writing for publicity. He has been so busy that he does not recommend retiring. "You get time off when you teach."

Off The Press

P. L. Ricker of the Wildflower Preservation Society has a fine circular on How to Start a Wild Flower Sanctuary. This organization also handles a service which aids in organization of Junior Wild Flower Chapters. Information on these activities can be obtained from the society at 3740 Oliver Street, N.W., Washington 15, D. C.

Dr. Will Clark of East Montana College of Education has been instrumental in the preparation of "Suggested Activities for the Teaching of the Conservation of Natural Resources." This is a well illustrated compilation of activities published by the Montana Conservation Council and obtainable from the Reporter Printing and Supply Co., Billings, Montana for \$1.00.

Senator Hubert H. Humphrey was joined by Congressman John Blatnik and other members of congress in proposing that the post office department be directed to issue a series of three-cent stamps commemorating the movement for the preservation of wilderness areas in America.

We are fortunate that there still are a few wilderness areas after these hundreds of years of prodigious wasteful use of our resources. The enormous increase of visitors to such areas in the past few years and the prospects of even greater numbers in the years to come shows that Americans are interested in seeing such areas preserved. All of us should urge his congressman to support the foregoing proposal and other measures aimed to preserve a few wilderness areas as museums for Americans to study and enjoy.

The Forest Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture has published Part I of *Operation Outdoors* dealing with National Forest Recreation. This publication indicates that in 1955 over 45 million people visited the national forests for recreation purposes. One-fourth were hunters and fishermen; the rest came to camp, picnic, swim, ride, ski, enjoy the scenery, or just to relax.

The critical problem of worn out accommodations built in the thirties and the enormous over crowding which will become more acute in the next few years is one which every member of the ANSS should be aware of. *Operation Outdoors* will give a basis for some clear thinking and point a way for action. Write to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Washington, D. C. for a copy.

Darwin Centennial Ahead

Millicent E. Selsam, whose excellent nature books such as *Play With Plants*, *Play With Vines* and *Play With Leaves and Flowers*, writes some interesting news on Darwin. The coming centennary of Darwin's Origin of Species prompted the following comments.

"During most of my academic biological life, Charles Darwin meant just one thing to me — a scientist of gigantic stature who provided the world with the experimental and observational material that proved evolution.

"It was only when I began to write children's books on nature subjects that I began to realize the vast scope as well as the infinite details that Darwin concerned himself with. I have found myself going back again and again to one or another of his volumes for material I needed. When I wrote *Play With Vines*, I found Darwin's *Climbing Plants* invaluable and was delighted that, as Darwin himself says, 'he found himself so fascinated and perplexed by the revolving movements of tendrils and stems,' that he secured seeds of many climbing plants and studied the whole subject. When I was at work on *Play With Leaves and Flowers*, I found myself going back again and again to Darwin's *Power of Movement in Plants*, which he says he was led to work on because 'in accordance with the principle of evolution, it was impossible to account for climbing plants having been developed in so many widely different groups unless all kinds of plants possess some slight power of movement of an analagous kind.' I just finished writing *Play With Seeds*, and found myself again going back, this time to Darwin's *Origin of Species*, for details on how wading birds carried seeds on their feet. Darwin describes there how he took three tablespoonfuls of mud from three different points beneath the water of a pond, kept them covered up in his study for six months, and found that 537 plants grew from this bit of mud. He reasoned from this that wading birds transport many seeds from one pond to another in their wanderings. Once a professor sent him a leg of a partridge with a ball of earth sticking to it, and Darwin found that 82 plants sprang from this ball of earth!

"And so it goes. Darwin to me is an inexhaustible source of experimental and observational work that I delight to use in present day nature books for children. I never tire of quoting this that Darwin said to himself, 'I have no quickness or apprehension of wit. My power to follow

Off The Press

Edwin Way Teale is out on the road again gathering material for another book. He will head westward as far as the continental divide and will photograph and write as he rushes leisurely through spring and summer. We look forward to a treat as fine as his *Autumn Across America* or *North with the Spring*.

A new book called *Using Wayside Plants* has been announced. The author and publisher is Nelson Coon at Watertown 72, Massachusetts. This is claimed as a book useful for everyone who drives into the country in spring, summer or fall. It includes 92 recipes for cooking and preserving the bounties of the wayside.

Like so many of our members, Charlotte Hilton Green is leading a busy life promoting the cause of nature study and conservation. As chairman of the conservation committee of the N. C. Federation of Women's Clubs she has conducted workshops, gives talks, attended various meetings. At the governor's statewide meeting on Forestry Mrs. Green spoke on the problem of "Getting the Children

a long and purely abstract train of thought is very limited. My memory is extensive, yet hazy. On my favorable side of the balance, I think I am superior in noticing things which easily escape attention, and in observing them carefully."

Conservation and Nature Minded." Out of her many contacts over the state she gleams material for her 24-year-old newspaper column "Out-of-doors in Carolina." She features conservation projects, debates, English themes, etc. in the schools. Her various books such as *Birds of the South* and *Trees of the South* are state adopted for libraries, reading tables and resource-groups. She is completing *Bird Sanctuaries in the South*.

How to conserve this country's natural wealth in the face of rising population and per-capita consumption is the subject of a new book entitled *America's Natural Resources* to be published April 15 by the Ronald Press Company, 15 East 26th Street, New York City.

It has been edited for the Natural Resources Council of America by a committee headed by Charles H. Callison, conservation director of the National Wildlife Federation. Other members of the committee are Henry Clepper, executive secretary, Society of American Foresters; Michael Hudoba, Washington editor of *Sports Afield*, and Richard W. Westwood, president, American Nature Association. The book will retail for \$3.75.

This is a concise summary of the basic facts about soil, water, grasslands, forests and each of the other major renewable resources — so presented as to be immediately useful to the reader who has little knowledge of the scientific details.

NOTICE

Membership in the American Nature Study Society includes a membership card, a quarterly NEWSLETTER and the following types of enrollment:

- Group 0 — \$1.00 Membership only and NEWSLETTER
- Group I — \$2.00 Cornell Rural School Leaflet — 4 issues annually
- Group II — \$3.00 Canadian Nature Magazine — 5 issues
- Group III — \$4.50 Nature Magazine — 10 issues
- Group IV — \$4.50 Canadian Nature and Cornell Leaflet
- Group V — \$6.00 Nature Magazine and Cornell Leaflet
- Group VI — \$7.00 Nature Magazine and Canadian Nature
- Group VII — \$7.50 Nature Magazine, Canadian Nature, Cornell Leaflet

Magazines under group VII subscribed to separately would cost \$9.00. Send application and payment to:

Dr. Howard E. Weaver, 202 Men's Old Gym, Urbana, Illinois

AMERICAN NATURE STUDY SOCIETY
State Teachers College, Fitchburg, Mass.

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